THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The alignment of the fence is based on operational considerations to check infiltration and was finalised in consultation with the civil administration The three villages of Hethlanga, Chironda and Silikut in Uri Sector, lie between the Line of Control (LoC) and the fence. It is incorrect to state that these villages lie in 'No Mans Land' as it is inside Indian territory and the Indian Army is deployed there and these villages are protected just as other villages near the LoC.

Ship reporting System

1471 SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to have a better coordination in search and rescue missions on the high seas and overcome threat of piracy, Indian Coast Guard officials have discussed with American and Japanese counterparts, the possibility of linking its ship reporting system with that of the two countries;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached;

(c) if so, whether US, Japanese and Australian reporting systems are already inter-linked but the Indian system and those operated by South Korea and China are independent,

(d) whether Indian Government have discussed this with the US and Japan; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At present, only United States and Japanese Ship Reporting Systems are interlinked. Others, like Indian Ship Reporting System, can access other ship reporting systems the world over on an as required basis by using the established means of communication.

(d) and (e) The issue has been under discussion at the level of Coast Guard organisations of the respective countries.